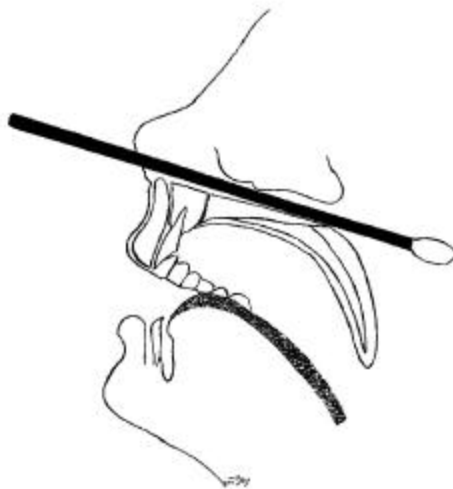


INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SUBMISSION OF INFLUENZA SPECIMENS FROM SENTINEL PHYSICIANS

Michigan Department of Community Health

Freeze coolant provided upon receipt of this Unit!

1. Complete a test requisition for **each** specimen submitted. More than one properly packaged specimen may be submitted in each shipping unit.
2. Place test requisition in the plastic bag provided to protect it from moisture.
Note: check outdate on viral transport. If outdated – do not use. Request replacement by calling 517-335-9867.
3. Wash hands. Put on gloves; consider mask and eye protection.
4. Explain the procedure to the patient.
5. Select an unobstructed nostril by evaluating the following:
 - a. Can the patient breathe out of both nostrils?
 - b. Has the patient ever had an injury or surgery to the nose?
 - c. Perform a visual inspection for evidence of a deviated septum.
6. Provide the patient with tissues. Instruct them to blow their nose to remove mucus. A second tissue may be needed for watery eyes.
7. Position the person's head leaning gently back (about 70°) against a wall.
8. Aseptically remove the sterile swab from package.
9. Hold swab lightly between the thumb and index finger thus allowing a quick release in the event the patient moves.
10. Place the swab in the nostril and gently follow the septum beyond the external nares. If any resistance to insertion occurs, **STOP** immediately to prevent injury.
11. In an adult, the swab should be inserted 4-6 cm or approximately 2/3 of the length of the swab.
12. Rotate the swab gently in place for a few seconds to absorb cells.
13. Withdraw the swab and insert into transport medium vial. Rotate swab in the transport medium. **Express swab** by pressing against the side of the vial. **Discard swab** properly.
14. Tighten cap securely on transport medium.
15. Label the vial with the same name/unique identifier used on the test requisition. Record the name/unique identifier, as you will use it to link to specimen result to the patient.
16. Remove personal protective equipment and wash hands.
17. Refrigerate all specimens – **DO NOT FREEZE**– until ready to ship by the most rapid means to the laboratory. Ship specimen the same day collected, if possible. If you don't think specimen will arrive at the lab less than 48 hours after collection, freeze it at –70 degrees C and ship on dry ice, if feasible. **Do not use wet ice!**
18. When ready to ship, place properly labeled specimen vial, **wrapped in absorbent material such as paper towel or tissue**, into aluminum screw-capped can and secure cap with tape.
19. Place the aluminum can into the cardboard screw-capped can provided and secure cap.
20. Complete the U.S. Express Mail Shipping Label and apply it along with the U.S. Express Mail Corporate Account Stamp and the diagnostic specimen label to the corrugated box containing specimens in the screw-capped can, refrigerant, test requisitions and Styrofoam container.
21. Either call the 800 number listed on the shipping label for pickup, your local post office or take box directly to the closest U.S. Post Office. If there are any questions contact the Bureau of Laboratories at 517-335-8067.



NOTE: The shipper is responsible for being sure that their package is in compliance with the current shipping regulations.